

LS 2040 Legal Research & Writing II Syllabus

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Instructor:

E-mail:

Office:

Phone:

Course Description: This 3 credit course builds upon the basic research skills introduced in Introduction to Legal Research and Writing I. The emphasis is on incorporating the student's research into an effective writing product, primarily either a legal memorandum or persuasive legal brief.

Texts:

- William H. Putman, Legal Research, Analysis, and Writing, Delmar Learning (2d ed. 2010)
- The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation 21st Edition, Harvard Law Review Association

GRADING

A	Excellent	93-100%
A-	Excellent	90-92%
B+	Good	86-89%
B	Good	83-85%
B-	Good	80-82%
C+	Average	76-79%
C	Average	73-75%
C-	Average	70-72%
D+	Below Average	66-69%
D	Below Average	63-65%
D-	Below Average	60-62%
E	Failing	0-59%

Grading Percentages:

Research assignments 45%

Final research assignment 20%

In class assignments (2) 20%

Class attendance and participation 15%

Additional Policies

Withdrawal and Incomplete Grades: The last day to drop this class with a refund is listed in the official college schedule but is approximately 3 weeks after the first day of class; the last day to withdraw (without

refund) is also listed in the official college schedule but is approximately 12 weeks after the first day of class. Any requests to withdraw after that date will require documentation from a physician or an employer stating that you are unable to continue in the class for health or work-related reasons. Poor performance in the class is not a legitimate reason for withdrawal. It is the responsibility of the student to drop/withdraw from this class, not the instructor. Students who do not attend during the first week of class may be dropped at the discretion of the instructor.

Dropping the Course: If you decide for any reason to discontinue this class, you must go through the process of dropping the class with SLCC. I cannot and will not do it for you. If you stop submitting work and do not drop the class, I am required to give you a grade based on the limited amount of work you have submitted, which could result in an “E”.

Incomplete Grades: Sometimes life gets in the way for all of us to do our best. Car accidents happen – pandemics destroy our plans – things change at work. That’s why incomplete grades exist; however, awarding an incomplete grade is rarely in a student’s best interest. Most “I” grades become failing grades after the required one-year grace period expires. The school policy is that a grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be available at the instructor’s option but is only given in the most extenuating of circumstances (for example health reasons) for which there is verifiable written documentation. In order to receive an incomplete, nearly all course work must have been completed (>75%) with a passing grade. When an incomplete grade is awarded, a contract must be completed to finish the missing work.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

You can access the document by clicking on the following link:

<https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab:

<https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus>. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring accommodations or services under ADA, should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of these accommodations and services for the college. Please contact the DRC at the Student Center, Suite 244, Redwood Campus, 4600 So. Redwood Rd, 84123. Phone: (801) 957-4659, TTY: 957-4646, Fax: 957- 4947 or by drc@slcc.edu.

Academic honesty and the SLCC Student Code of Conduct: Students are both bound and protected by the SLCC Student Code of Conduct. If you are unaware of this Code and the requirements it makes of you as well as the protection it gives you, contact Student Services for a copy (of either the complete code or the abbreviated version). Personal integrity and responsibility are requirements of this class, as are all other guidelines of the Student Code.

Plagiarism is theft. Any time you present another person's work as your own—even if that other person is a friend and/or spouse—you have plagiarized. The penalty for a first offense of academic dishonesty is no credit for the assignment, which cannot be redone. A second offense means that you fail the course and will be reported to the Division Chair and Student Advising.

Title IX Information:

20 U.S.C.A. Section 1681 (a): TITLE IX

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal funds.”

Examples of violations (but not limited to):

- Sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and sexually motivated physical conduct
- Overt or subtle pressure for sexual activity
- Sexually offensive verbalization including remarks, “teasing”, slurs, and innuendo.
- Repeated inappropriate jokes or comments about sex or gender specific traits.
- Conduct that is demeaning or derisive and occurs substantially because of one's gender.
- Sexual assault
- Sexual Violence
- Gender based disparate treatment.

Violations can occur in any college environment, such as (but not limited to):

- Field Trips
- Classrooms
- Student Clubs
- Athletics
- Transportation
- On Campus Events

If you have questions or concerns regarding your rights or responsibilities, or if you would like to file a Title IX complaint please contact: Students-: Dr. Marlin Clark, Dean of Students, 801-957-4776, STC 276 A (Redwood) Employees or Community members: Ken Stonebrook, Title IX & Discrimination Manager, 801-957-5027, AAB 211G (Redwood)

Online Reporting Form: <http://www.slcc.edu/eo/title-ix/complaint.aspx>

Salt Lake Community College has a strong prohibition against retaliation. The college does not tolerate acts of retaliation against anyone for engaging in filing a complaint or participating in an investigation.

Institutional Syllabus: See the Institutional Syllabus for more information about:

- Institutional Policies
- Advising
- Counseling
- Learning Support
- Tutoring Services
- DRC
- and many other support services

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program Learning Outcomes: Consistent with the College's learning outcomes, the Paralegal Studies program is committed to achieving the following student learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of legal concepts and terminology in several substantive areas of the law.
2. Perform professional caliber legal research and writing using legal reasoning skills in the reading and interpretation of legal materials such as statutes, court decisions and other legal documents.
3. Analyze the procedural rules in both the civil and criminal areas of the law and the relationship between procedural rules and substantive law.
4. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication.
5. Describe the ethical responsibilities of paralegals, the rules of professional conduct governing lawyers, and the application of these rules to paralegals.

Course Learning Outcomes: Consistent with the Paralegal Studies Program learning outcomes, the Program is committed to achieving the following course learning outcomes for LS 2040:

Course Objectives	Activities and Assignments Used to Assess Student Achievement of course objectives.
	*Students will be assessed using one or more of the following:
Writing clearly and logically-Students should be able to write clear, concise, and logical arguments based on legal analysis.	Brief Beam v. Cullett First Research Assignment Assignments 4, 8, 13, 14 and 16 on 4th research assignment Assignments 5, 6 and 7
Identifying legal issues-Students should be able to identify the relevant facts, issues, and rules of law in court decisions. Researching and citing	Assignment 4 Assignment 5 Assignment 12
Students should be able to locate statutes, cases, and secondary sources. They should also be able to properly cite cases, statutes, and other resources using the Bluebook or other citation manuals.	Chapter 4 Bluebook exercises (handout)
Understanding legal theory-Students should be able to understand the theory of the case and develop one based on legal research and other information. They should also be able to identify and articulate the factual propositions that would help the client win.	Assignment: People v. Sanders Assignment: Flowers v. Campbell Second Research Assignment 3rd research assignment Assignment: Commonwealth v. Shea Case brief

<p>Recognizing effective writing-Students should be able to recognize excellent legal writing and techniques for improving their own writing.</p>	<p>Fourth Research Assignment Final Research Assignment</p>
---	---

Tentative Course Outline

This is a tentative course schedule and is subject to change based on the instructor’s and students’ needs.

<p>Week 1</p>	<p>Overview of course</p>	<p>Activities and Assignments Used to Assess Student Achievement of course objectives.</p> <p>*Students will be assessed using one or more of the following:</p>
<p>Week 2</p>	<p>Chapter 1 Introduction to Legal Principles and Authorities</p>	<p>Assignment 4.d on p. 24</p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Chapter 2 - Introduction to Legal Research and Analysis</p> <p>Chapter 3 - Constitutions, Statutes, Administrative Laws and Court Rules -Research and Analysis</p>	<p>Assignment 5 on pp 51-52 • Assignment 12 on pp 101-02</p>
<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Chapter 4 - Case Law-Research and Briefing</p> <p>Chapter 5 - Secondary Authority - Encyclopedias, Treatises, American Law Reports, Digests, Shephards</p> <p>Chapter 6 - Secondary Authority - Periodicals, Restatements, Uniform Laws, Dictionaries, Legislative History</p>	<p>Brief the Beam v. Cullett case on p. 575</p>
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Chapter 8 - Legal Citation</p>	<p>Bluebook exercises</p>

Week 6		First Research Assignment due Distribution of 2nd research assignment (Office Memo - Issue and Facts)
Week 7	Chapter 9 - Legal Analysis -Key Facts Chapter 10 - Legal Analysis - Issue Identification	Assignment 3 on p. 325 re Flowers v. Campbell Assignment 6, Part Don p. 347 re People v. Sanders
Week 8	Chapter 11 - Legal Analysis - Stating the Issue Chapter 12 - Case Law Analysis - Is a Case on Point? Chapter 13 - Counteranalysis	Second Research Assignment due Introduction of 3rd research assignment (Office memo - Analysis to conclusion)
Week 9	Chapter 14 - Fundamentals of Writing	
Week Spring Break		
Week 10	Wed Mar 13: Chapter 14 (continued)	Assignments 4, 8, 13, 14 and 16 on pp 445-47 Third Research Assignment due Introduction of 4th research assignment (Complete office memorandum)
Week 11	Chapter 15 - The Writing Process for Effective Legal Writing	Assignments 5, 6 and 7
Week 12	Chapter 16 - Office Legal Memorandum: Issues and Facts	Assignment 7 on p. 517, including Commonwealth v. Shea

Week 13	Chapter 17 - Office Legal Memorandum: Analysis to Conclusion	
Week 14	Fourth Research Assignment due	
Week 15	Chapter 18 - External Memoranda: Court Briefs	
Week 16	Research and consultation.	Case brief due Research Assignment due